

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 04826 050632Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 /088 W
-----082863 052135Z /14

R 041130Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0067
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 4826

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NP
SUBJECT: HMG CRITICIZES B.P. KOIRALA'S REPORTED ALLEGATION THAT
"THOUSANDS" OF HIS SUPPORTERS IN JAIL

REF: KATHMANDU 4752 (NOTAL)

1. A SPOKESMAN OF THE HOME PANCHAYAT MINISTRY NOVEMBER 3
DESCRIBED AS TOTALLY "BASELESS, MISLEADING, IMAGINARY, AND
ABSURD" A STATEMENT OF B.P. KOIRALA PUBLISHED IN SOME
INDIAN PAPERS ALLEGING THAT THOUSANDS OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE STILL
IN JAIL. THE SPOKESMAN SAID KOIRALA'S STATEMENT NOT ONLY
COMPLETELY IGNORED THE FACT THAT ONLY RECENTLY HIS MAJESTY
HAD GRANTED AMNESTY TO SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY EN-
GAGED IN ANTI-NATIONAL ACTIVITIES, THEREBY PERMITTING THEM TO
RESIDE PEACEFULLY WITHIN THE COUNTRY, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT
HMG HAS RELEASED POLITICAL DETAINEES. THE STATEMENT OF THE
SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT B.P. KOIRALA HIMSELF WAS ALLOWED
"DUE TO THE UNBOUNDED GRACE OF HIS MAJESTY", TO GO ABROAD FOR
MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND ASCRIBED A MALICIOUS MOTIVE TO SUCH
UTTERANCES BY KORALA.

2. WE HAVE NOT SEEN, IN THE INDIAN NEWSPAPERS WE HAVE
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 04826 050632Z

RECEIVED, ANY STATEMENT BY B.P. KOIRALA ALLEGING THAT
"THOUSANDS" OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE STILL IN JAIL. HOWEVER,
WE NOTE FROM CALCUTTA'S 2429 (NOTAL) THAT NOVEMBER 1 AMRITA
BAZAR PATRIKA STORY ON PATNA RECEPTION FOR B.P. QUOTED
B.P. AS SAYING HE WAS GOING BACK TO NEPAL TO, INTER ALIA,
"LIVE WITH HUNDREDS OF BRAVE ASSOCIATES IN PRISONS."

3. AN ALLEGATION BY KOIRALA THAT "THOUSANDS" OF HIS SUPPORTERS ARE IN JAIL WOULD APPEAR TO BE A CONSIDERABLY EXAGGERATED CLAIM, AND SEEMS DISCORDANT WITH THE MORE CONCILIATORY TONE OF HIS RECENT REMARKS WHICH WE NOTED REFTEL. THE IMPRESSION OF A MORE MODERATE STANCE BY KOIRALA HAS BEEN REENFORCED BY CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH TWO NEPALI CONGRESS SOURCES IN KATHMANDU. BOTH OF THESE SOURCES, WHO HAVE NOMINALLY MADE THEIR PEACE WITH THE KING, AND THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM, BELIEVED B.P. HAD BEEN TAKING A MODERATE STANCE. ONE, WHO SAW SUBARNA SHUMSHERE, THE SERIOUSLY AILING NEPALI CONGRESS LEADER IN CALCUTTA ON OCTOBER 23, REPORTED THAT SUBARNA, FEARING THAT HE IS NEAR DEATH, HAD INVESTED B.P. WITH LEADERSHIP OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS AND TOLD SOURCE THAT B.P. SEEMED INTERESTED IN REFORMING THE PRESENT SYSTEM RATHER THAN IN DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE KING. THE OTHER SOURCE, A FORMER NEPALI CONGRESS MINISTER WHO TALKED WITH KING BIRENDRA LAST WEEK, SAID THE KING TOLD HIM HE WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITH B.P. ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT TWO CONDITIONS ARE MET: (1) THAT THERE CONTINUE TO BE AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE KING AND (2) THAT B.P. ACCEPT THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM. OUR SOURCE BELIEVED THAT, OTHER THAN THESE TWO CONDITIONS, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE KING, AND SOURCE BELIEVED THAT THE TWO CAN WORK TOGETHER.

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 04826 050632Z

4. THE NOVEMBER 3 STATEMENT OF THE HOME-PANCHAYAT MINISTRY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT, IF INDEED B.P. MADE THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. THE KING IS NOT PREPARED TO TURN A BLIND EYE IF KOIRALA TAKES A HARDER LINE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER DELHI OR CALCUTTA HAVE SEEN ANY REPORT OF B.P. STATEMENT REFERRING TO "THOUSANDS" OF HIS SUPPORTERS STILL BEING IN JAIL.
EAVES

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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